

# Boston Traveler

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As We See It

## Speaking Of Conduits

THE uproar that was touched off by the disclosure that the Central Intelligence Agency had been giving financial support to the National Student Association has left CIA Director Richard Helms occupying one of the most awkward spots in Washington.

This is, to say the least, unfortunate, since the financing program was basically a good idea, and, since it was not Helms' creation anyway. Actually

it began in 1952 and was approved through the years by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.



HELMS

But while we sympathize with Helms in his uncomfortable role, we have no sympathy for the attitude of the CIA's former deputy director Robert Amory Jr. He argues that the press is doing the country a disservice by printing stories of the CIA's financial involvements. The press, he says,

"might just as well be scuttling carriers in the Tonkin Gulf."

That's a loose, unwarranted remark if ever we've heard one.

The CIA's practice of channeling money to selected organizations, by means of "dummy" foundations and other conduits, has brought about a Senate committee probe. The public is entitled to know where this is heading, and the press has the duty of reporting the facts.

A Congressional Quarterly checkup has disclosed that 29 organizations have received more than \$12.4 million from CIA funds, much of it through the cooperation of conduit foundations. Both legitimate foundations and CIA dummy foundations, stretching from Boston to Dallas, have served as go-betweens, passing CIA funds along to organizations in the fields of labor, education, journalism, law and religion.

This operation has helped to fight Communism and advance our national interests. The press is doing a service both to the CIA and to the public by reporting what is going on, and by pointing out that the CIA objectives were commendable.

CPYRGHT.